From October 2015(…..Continued) (Volume 57)

A great evening out

on Herzliya Marina

The **Carmel Market** goes straight down from Allenby all the way to the Carmelit bus station near the sea. In the surrounding alleyways and streets there are market stalls and niche shops selling eastern food, meat or spices. Nahalat Binyamin is basically a two-part street, one is a pedestrian mall (*Ha'Nahala*) filled with a-la-mode cafés in charmingly designed old buildings and some absolutely superb gourmet restaurants. The atmosphere is vibrant every day, but especially on Tuesdays and Fridays (10AM-5PM) when the ever-popular Crafts Market takes over and street performers entertain the passers-by.

DR HALVA
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כרמל
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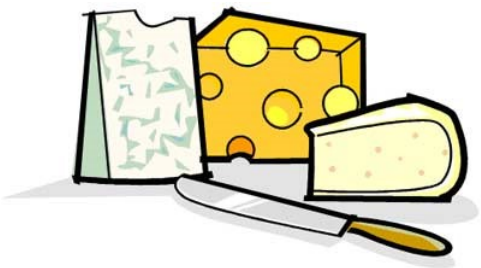
Carmel Market



Refreshing fruit juices
squeezed while you wait

and the great thing is that his perfumes were really good plus great fun buying them

"..have I got some tefillin for you"

'street fun'

...and 'street serious'

She was a fantastic character and very arty. Lynn bought a beautiful hand crafted necklace from her

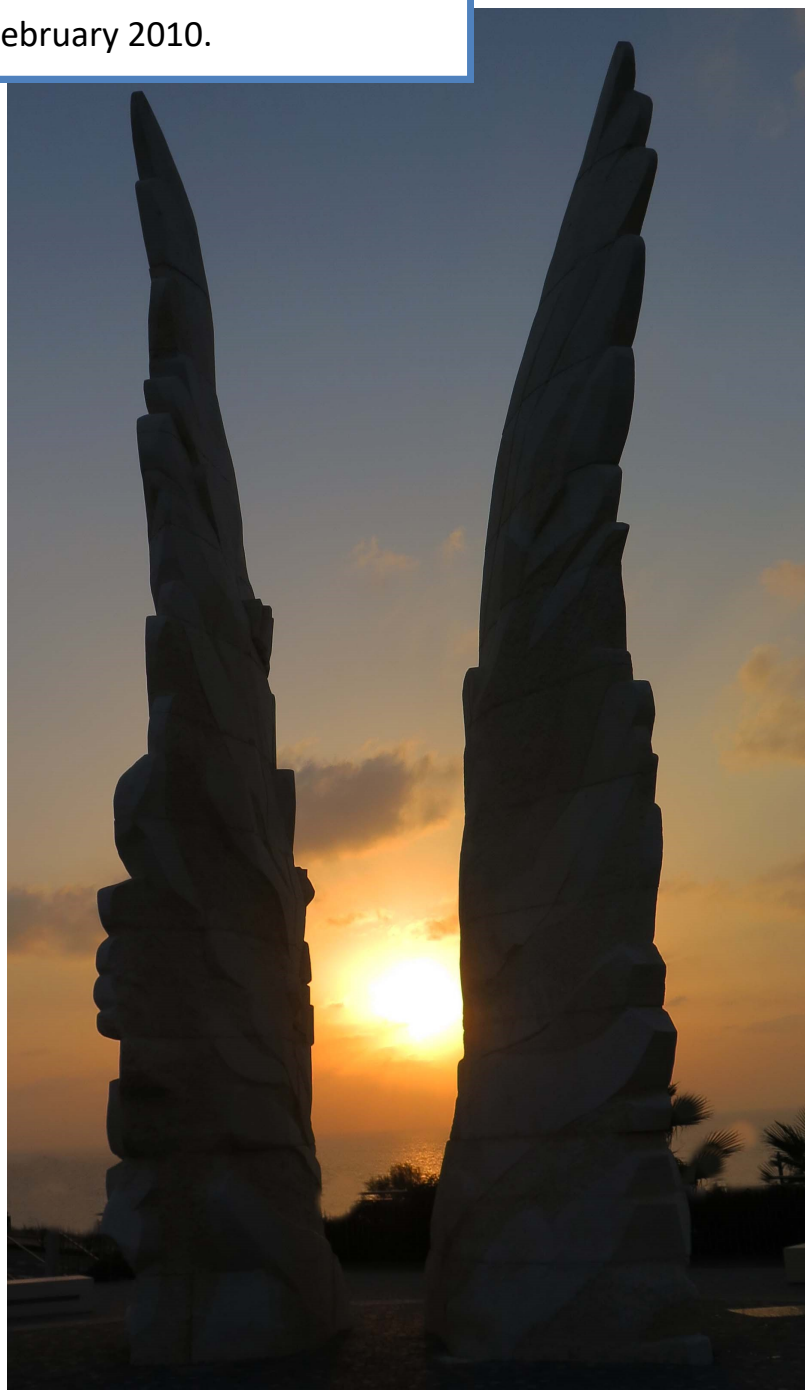
Deeply intense concentration while he made very interesting glass figures

Caesarea National Park is a wonderful archaeological site. The Theatre, built in Herod's toime was used for hundreds of years after that with two seating areas for over 4000 spectators. . There is a palace dating back to Roan/Byzantine periods on the promontory jutting into the sea. The amphitheatre complete with arena used for horse racing and sports events had places for 10,000 spectators. The Roman and Byzantine streets were on a typical grid pattern. The luxurious bathhouse occupies more than half of the insula. The commercial warehouse area was erected on vaults. In the 9th century (The Arab period) a fortified city surrounded the harbour. During the time of Herod a large artificial harbour was built here. On an elevated platform there was a lavish temple, and octagonal Byzantine church and mosque at various times. There are also ruins of a Byzantine synagogue. The remains of the Roman wall has a paved street with a sewage tunnel below. The oval Roman amphitheatre dates to the 2nd century was used for gladiatorial and animal combats. There are also remains of high and low level aqueducts.

The modern dual-fuel power station dominates the skyline and contrasts the old and new

The Victory Monument in Netanya is a memorial that marks the victory of the Red Army over Nazi Germany in World War 11. It was established by the Government of Israel with the consent of the Russian government. The project was first proposed by Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on a trip to Moscow in February 2010.

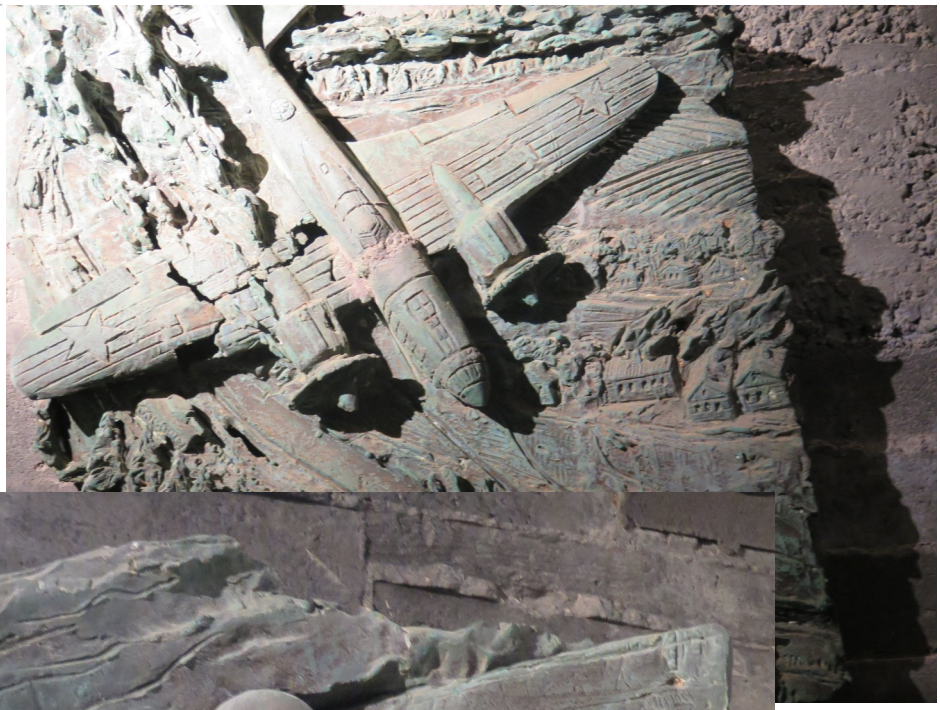
The memorial consists of two elements which symbolize the transition from darkness to light reflecting the Russian military victory to stop the Holocaust of the Jewish people, followed by the establishment of the Jewish state in Israel. The memorial is designed as a maze, in which key tragic events in the history of the Jewish people during the Holocaust are depicted in reliefs.



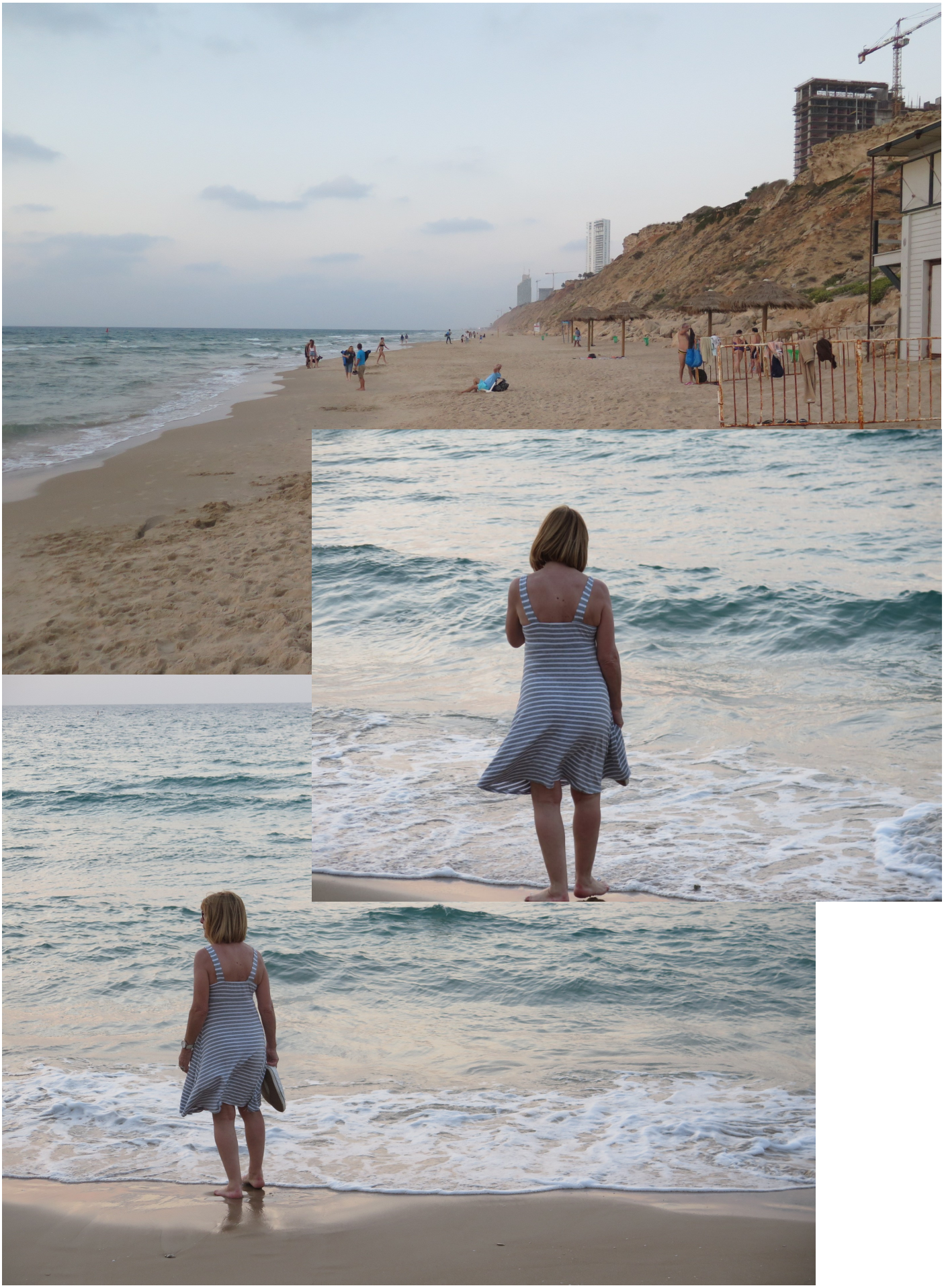
Two soaring white wings towering up and silhouetted here against the sunset symbolise hope and lead from light to darkness

Jude
ARBEIT

1941
БРЕСТ
22ИЮНЯ

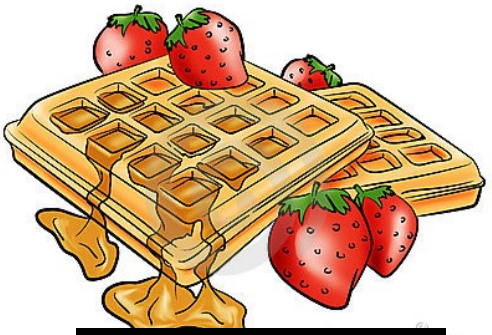


On the beach below the memorial



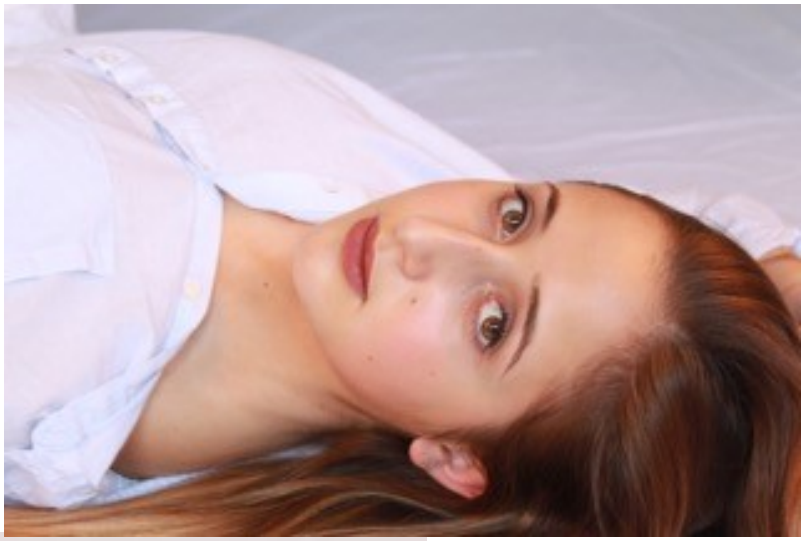
Modern developments along the Mediterranean coastline in Netanya

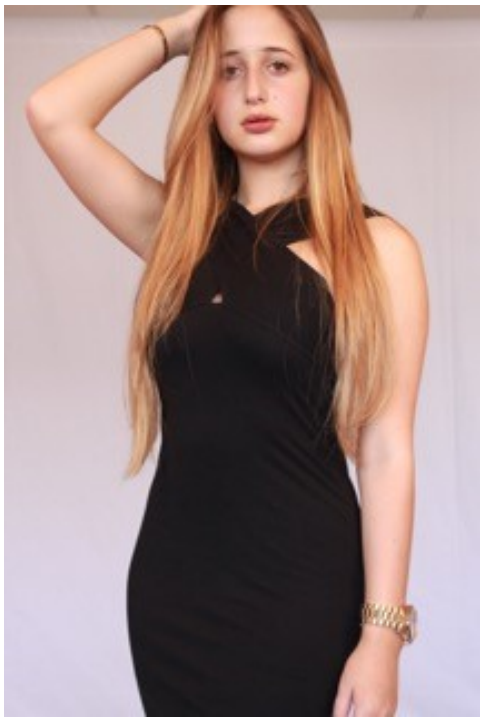
Ivor and Judi's wonderful apartment block



This is an Israeli small portion of waffles

Larnie and Jake in October 2015

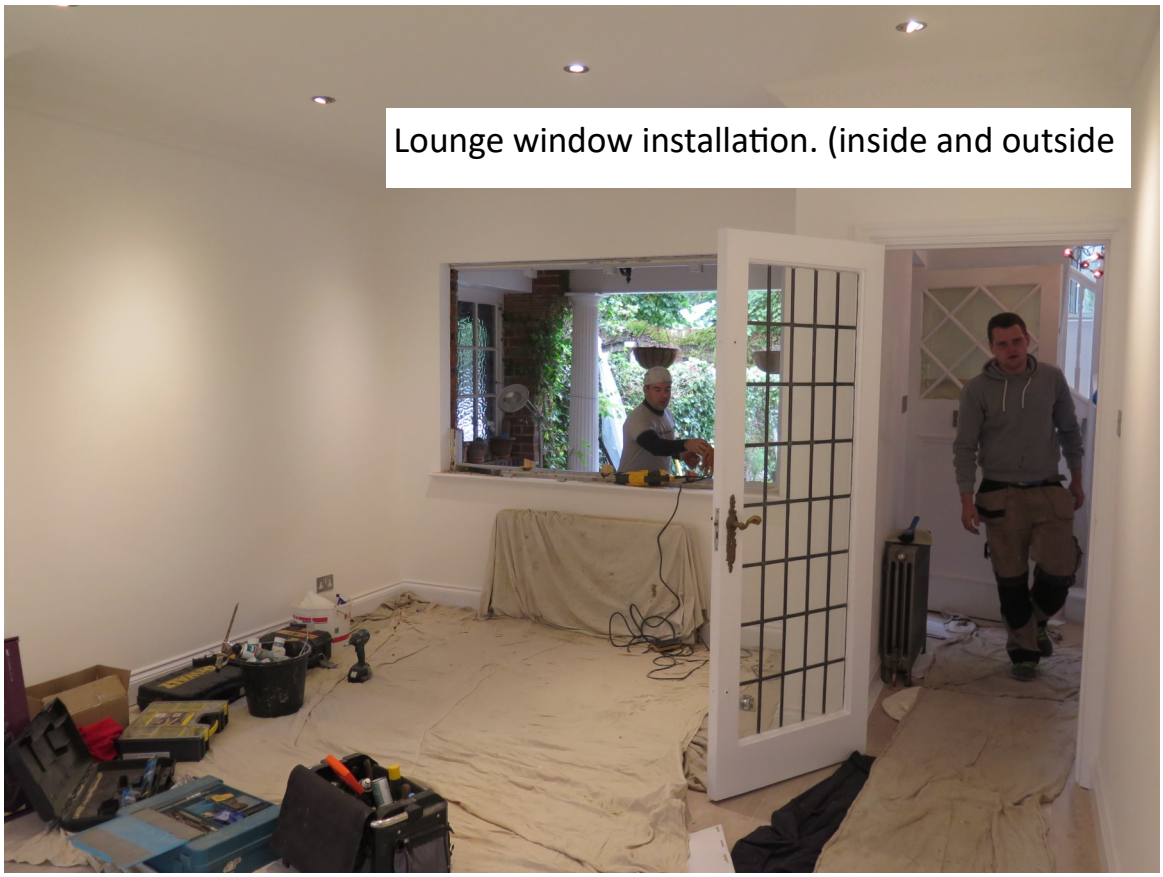




Lynn checking out the new table with the guys from Inplas

We are having quite a lot of changes at home and renovating the lounge, dining room and downstairs hall, staircase and upstairs landing as well.. One seems to quickly forget how it used to look so I have put together some 'before' and 'after shots'

New hall window installation



Lounge window installation. (inside and outside

Preparing ceiling and chimney breast wall for plastering

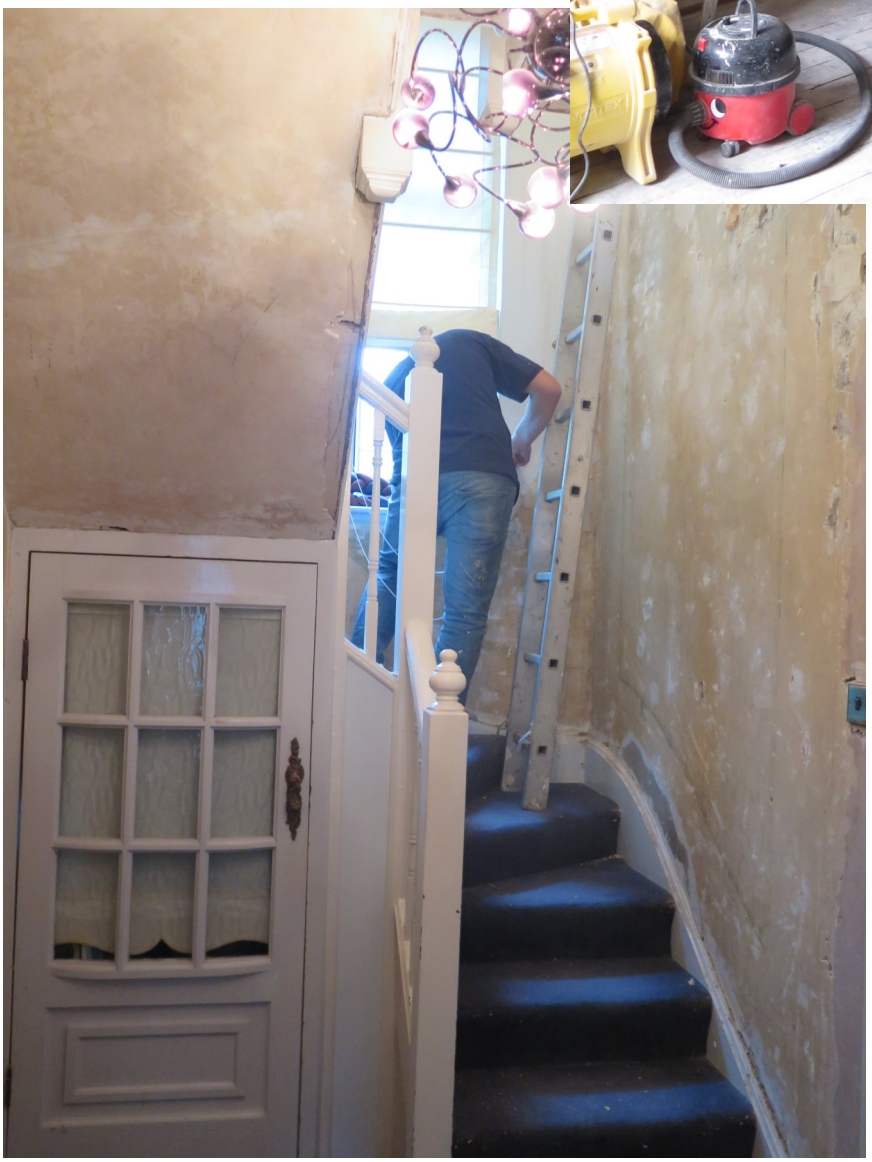
First fix electrics in dining room

August 2015

Preparing downstairs hall for plastering

First fix electrics in lounge

Plasterboard ceilings in lounge ready for plastering



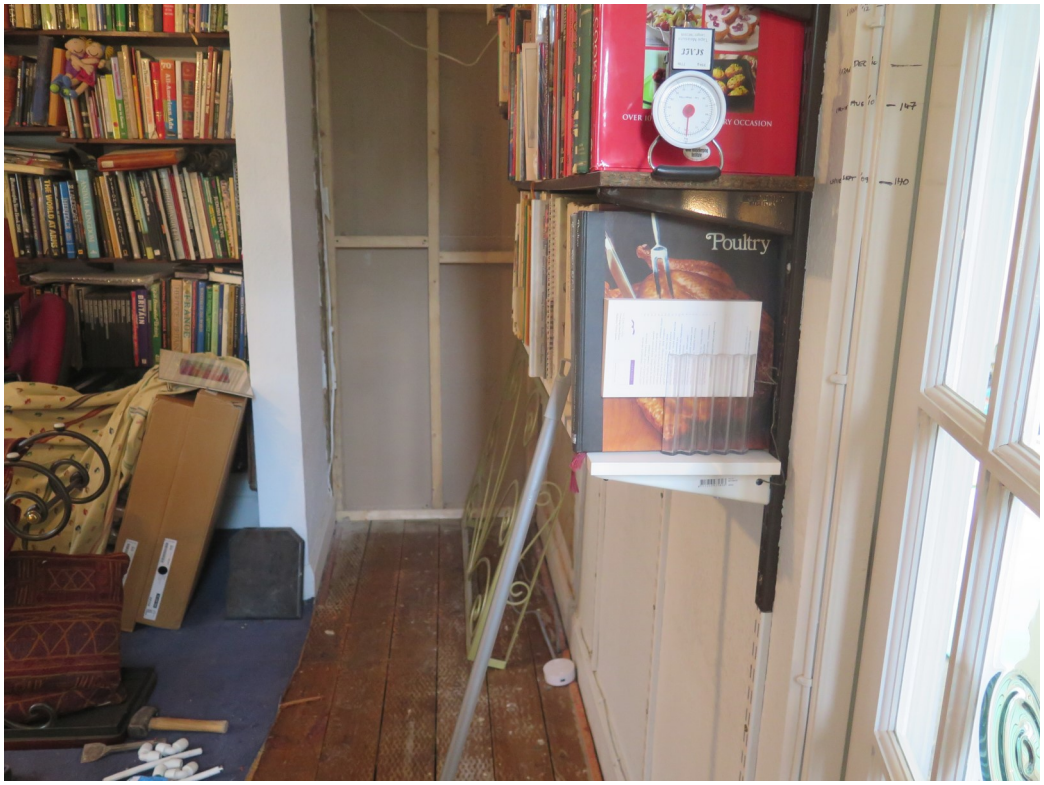
Preparing walls on stairs for plastering

Hall plastering completed. Flooring and carpeting still to be done..August 2015

Lounge floor completed

Study—Radiator moved and carpet being lifted

Study door to dining area filled in and new study cupboard being made ready for existing door to be repositioned



Laying lounge flooring, putting in downstairs front window and drilling chimney breast conduit for TV wiring

Hall plastering finished,

waiting for hall and stair carpeting

Flooring, plastering, ceiling and lighting completed# Sept 2015

Upstairs landing , painting and new LED lights installed, waiting for carpeting

In December 2015 Lynn and I walked the Christmas trail at Kew Gardens . Trees were illuminated and bushes were festooned with changing lights that reflected the music coming from hidden speakers.

See™
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EVENT CLOSES: 22.00
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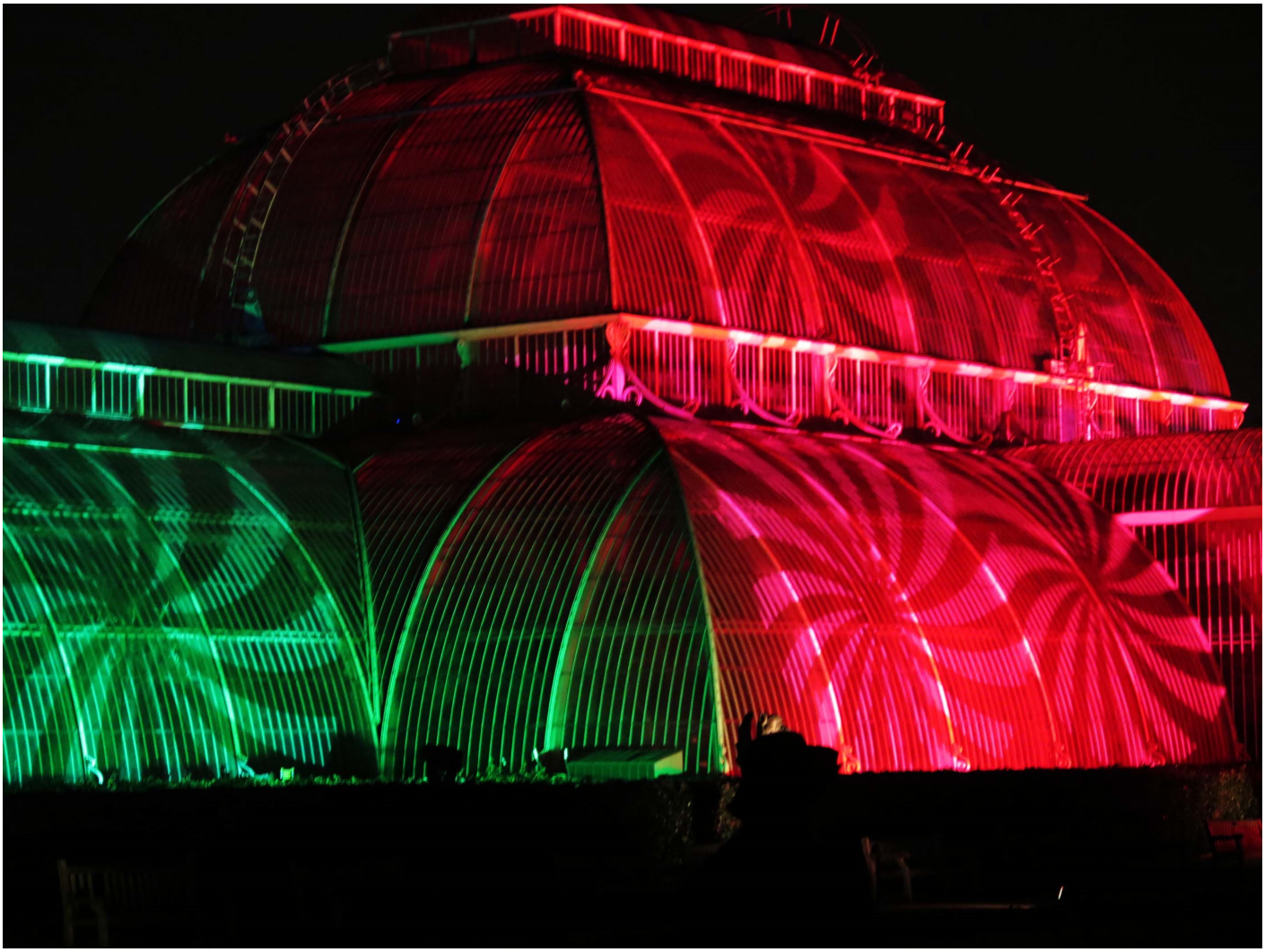
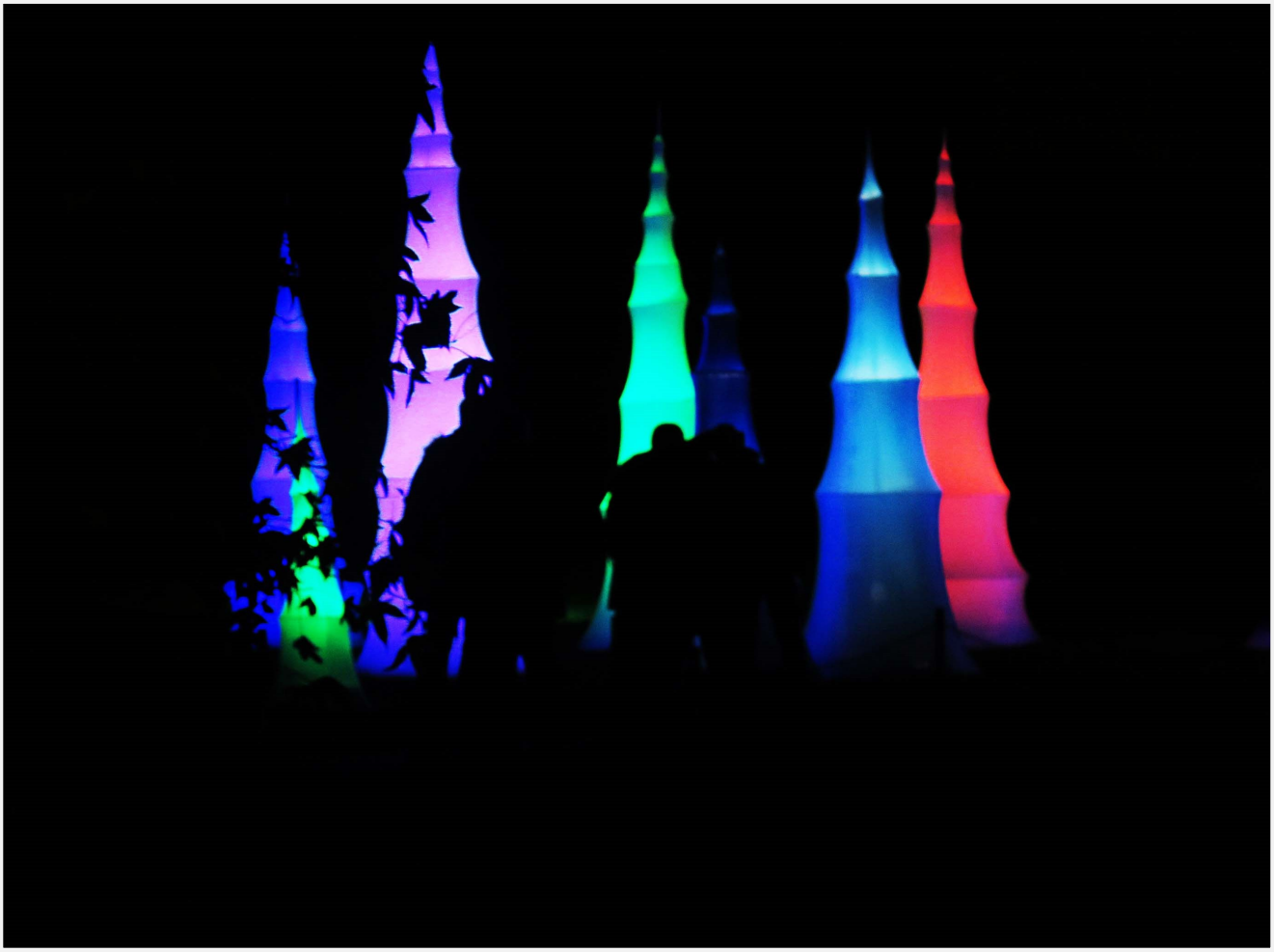
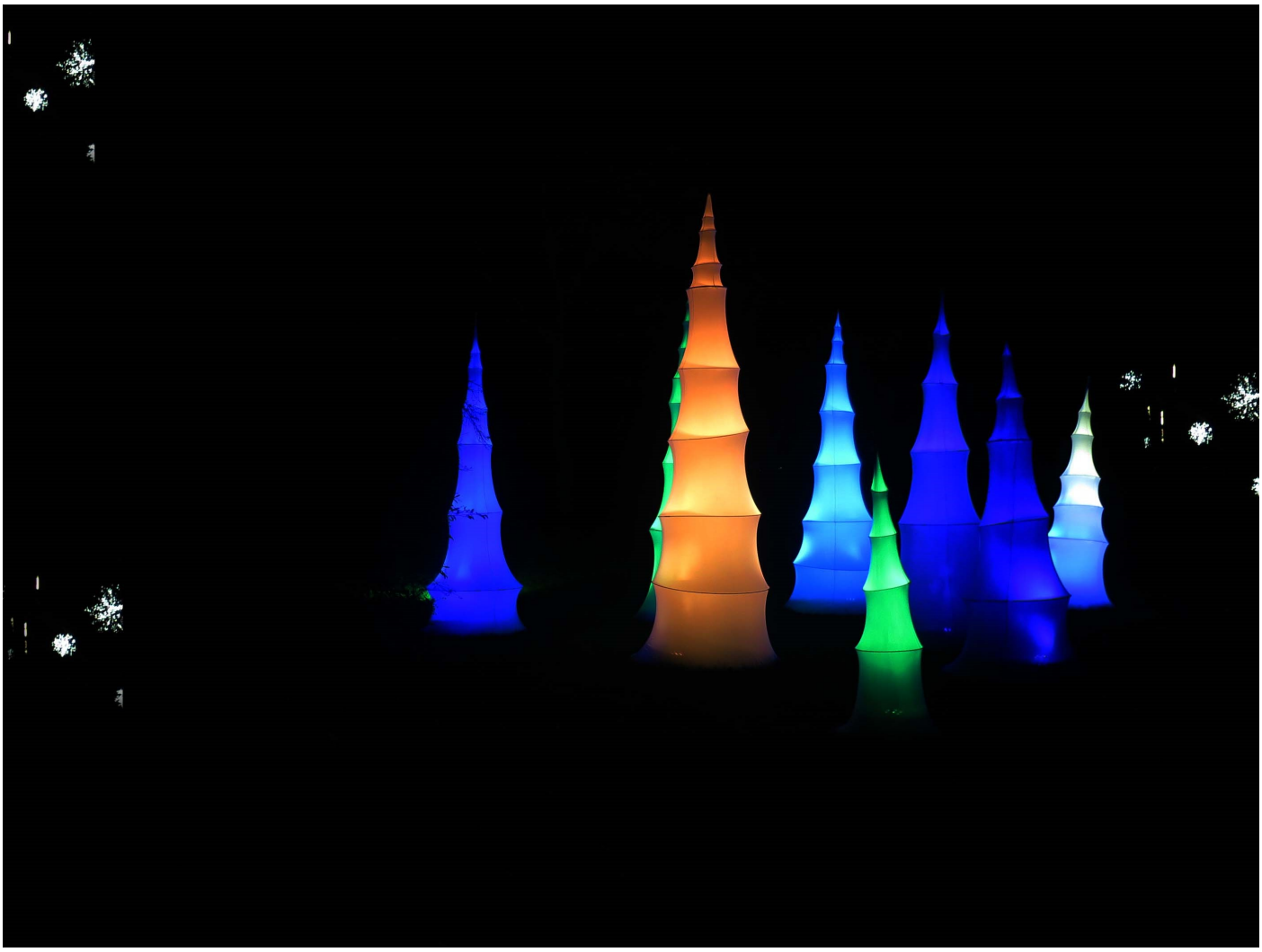
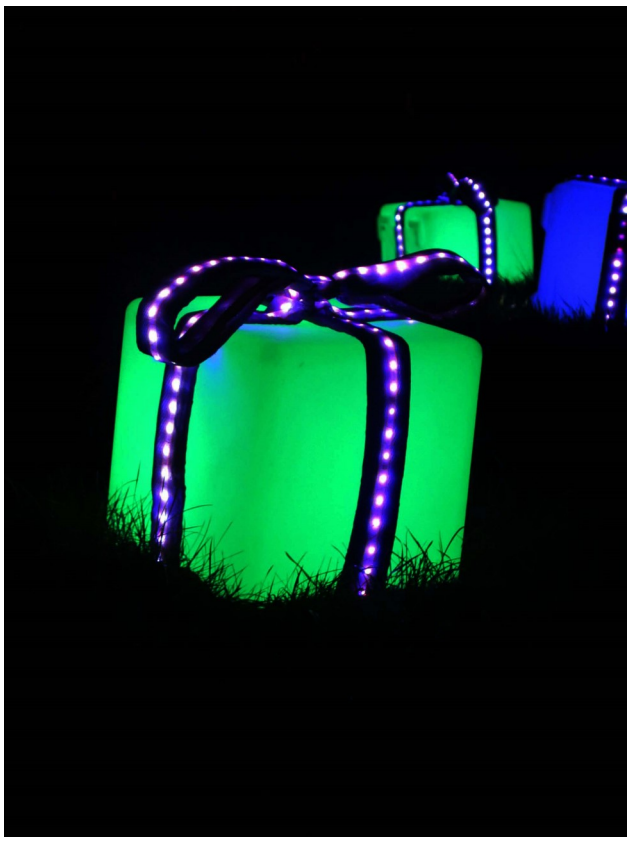
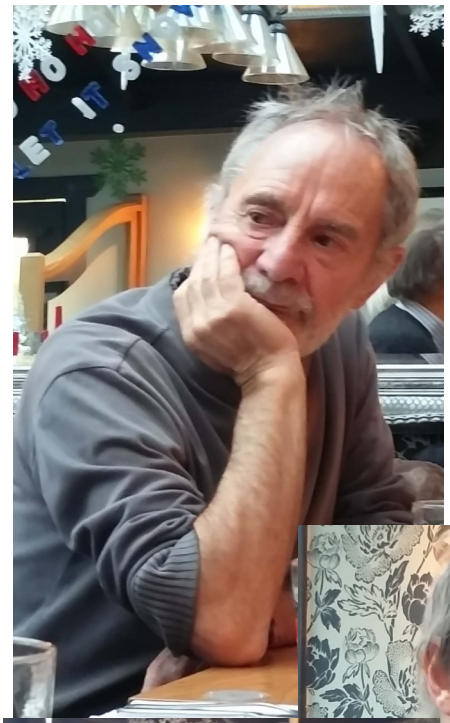




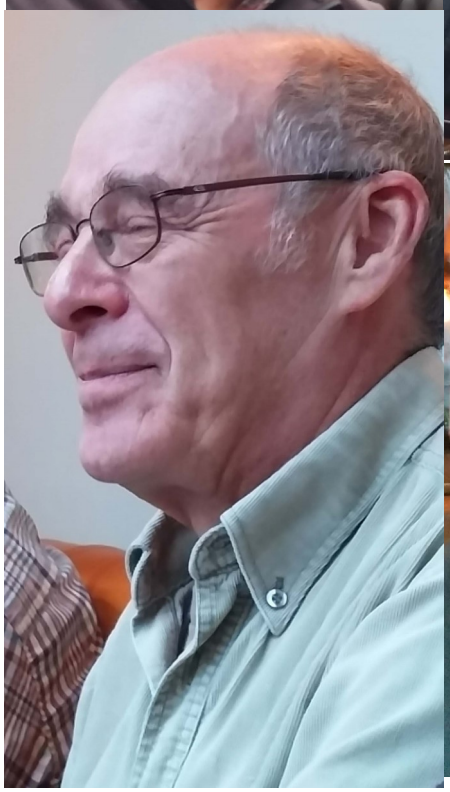




Lynn, enshrined in her waterproofs puts her wish in a lantern onto the wishing tree



Tired out after 8.5 mile walk in The Colne Valley. The Green Man in Denham# Dec 2015



Postscript December 2015 .

An eventful year. On a personal level, Lynn is waiting for the 3 monthly CT scan results so that is obviously the 'elephant in the room'. We plan holidays and house renovations etc around this constant fear, for want of a better word, but thanks to great friends and family and the positive attitude we have adopted we are carrying on as normal.

Mum has settled into a strange state where she recognises Lynn and myself but only says a word or two with much persuasion. She seems settled in the home and is well looked after. We find it very draining and feel a bit in limbo every time we leave the home. Nothing can really prepare one for this strange state she is in. We visit constantly

Tammy and Ben are really resilient with daily dialysis administered by tammy. We are really proud of the way in which she has undertaken this arduous task and Ben is so strong and if one didn't know what he has to contend with one would never guess. He is also holding down a very pressurised job plus being involved with The Home Office in compliance-related secret talks. To top it all they are off to Disney World in Florida next week taking all the dialysis equipment and necessary drugs with them. Jack, John and Larnie are flying to New York where they will all meet up. We are paying for a meal in Ben's favourite NY steak house as a surprise.

DP has just landed in Barbados as the first port of call in his adventure on the Tres Hombres. This brigante is a fantastic sailing boat that is transporting their rum, coffee and chocolate from Las Palmas to the UK entirely under sail. We track the boat on line and just saw this log from DP which gives the feel of his epic journey

Fluffy log from Tres Hombres…Dec 8th 2015

Setting sails in order to set sail, as no engine does she have
Her fuel , the calloused hands , the kiss of the wind and the knowledge of the ropes
This knowledge is new to me but unfolds in a nautical language of old
It unfolds as do the sails through calls by the captain or mate
‘Brace the yards , Douse the Royal, let go the starboard sheet,
No that’s the halyard of the upper Bob’ The Bosun heard to shout
As the flurry of frenetic human movement subsides and all sails spectacularly rise
The flying gliding forward causes all crew to heave a sigh
A sigh of pure contentment and bliss , that only true sailing can bring

Setting sail across the mighty seas
Setting sail upon the majestic ocean
Setting sails on the masts of the Tres Hombres

We lurch and rock n roll onwards upon the Atlantic sea
With a crew of punk rock pirates , the flag ship of the fleet
This growing fleet of fair transport ships ,
with their mission and life style to teach.
To teach the fuel crazed fast paced folk ,
to regain control of their lives,
Through choosing fair fine food and goods from source
and sailing them emission free
Emission free from A to B , the Tres Hombres message is clear .
With her belly already part full of rum ,
with many more delights to come.

Setting sail across the mighty seas
Setting sail upon the majestic ocean
Setting sails on the masts of the Tres Hombres

And now we sail into the clear blue world ,
clearing the mind and cleaning the soul.
The wind in her sails does sing.
The song she sings , sedately for now , can change at any time.
From a lullaby or whisper , that hardly does she move
To a screaming squall that brings with rain and sails to be doused.
But for the now she sings a constant song for her square sails to be full
Full enough to move us forward , knocking off miles through the swell.
This swell of the gulf stream and trade winds of old , mother nature’s motorway.

Setting sail across the mighty seas
Setting sail upon the majestic ocean
Setting sails on the masts off the Tres Hombres

So here I am . one of thirteen crew aboard this engineless Brigantine
The star board watch is the watch I am in , under the first mate’s charge
He schools us in sea man ship , the weather and the wind
He’s also a deep lover of music old and new, He rocks out at the helm
Often given our ears a treat .

From gypsy punk to classic folk and all genres in between.
Though for the night watches the music's off, so the port side watch can sleep.
but then all our senses are given a treat.
by the show of the stars and moon.
And as lady moon goes from full to small,
the stars take centre stage .
Nebula and galaxies , constellations and milky ways ,
outstanding to behold
Only to be abstractly mirrored
by bio luminescent plankton of the figure headed bow.

Setting sail across the mighty seas
Setting sail upon the majestic ocean
Setting sails on the masts of the Tres Hombres

Three times a day our most groovy chef , from our ever dwindling provisions
Always a fine feast does he make.
The bosun teaches us knots and ship care , as flying fish dance by
and up the rigging once again I climb to the yard of the royal sail
Often just creating excuses, just for the thrill of the climb.
As going aloft as the boat does rock , is a joy in every sense .
And on a ship mate's birthday , a cake on the night watch I bake,
And our Captain barbeques a fresh caught fish, such as dolphins and whales swim by.
and once a week we drink a toast to each other and to life
so as another day passes and nearer land we get
I really wanted to share with you ,
quite how great the Tres Hombres truly is……

Setting sail across the mighty seas
setting sail upon the majestic ocean
setting sails on the masts of the Tres Hombres

Huge love to all my people especially M and D, B.P. and E.P

What can I add to this??!!

———————————————————————————————————————

December 15th 2015….

News and comments:

Today saw Tom Peake blast off into space , the UK astronaut heading for the International Space Station. At blast-off, the rocket generated 422.5 tonnes of thrust - equivalent to 26 million horse power. The launch went with no reported problems and after one minute, the rocket was soaring upwards at 1,000mph (1,600km/h). After two minutes, the four boosters strapped around the rocket were jettisoned. Zero gravity was reached by the Soyuz spacecraft after nine minutes of travel. It is great seeing

seeing good news heading the papers for a change

Breaking news just coming in is that a suspected terrorist with links to the Paris massacre has just been arrested and also news just breaking is that schools in LA have been closed due to an un-named threat. I personally feel that the UK will next be targeted by a biological attack based on the tube—system. I hope I am wrong.

The Moslem–threat is constantly discussed in the media and due to the PC stranglehold no-one seems to be able to say the bloody obvious and that is that the status quo in any country can not survive an influx of <u>any</u> large number of people from any different culture especially where integration is not accepted. The whole dynamic of any country/ culture is overturned altering it in a very short space of time. The obvious answer that is well overdue is an immediate total ban on immigration. This is not anti-Moslem. It is merely common sense Where the indigenous population are watching house prices increase beyond their reach. This is caused by numerical pressure of potential 'renters' fuelled by foreign 'investors' buying property and looking for a quick buck.

We must totally cease our foreign aid programme. It is blatantly obvious that we are (unsuccessfully) punching above our weight with delusions of grandeur...we are not *Great* Britain any more and the benefits we receive from pumping money (much needed at home) into foreign lands are certainly not proved. Many countries receiving our aid have growing economies that supersedes ours and India, for example, even has a space programme.

Merkel was all for *no frontiers* and actively encouraged immigration but today I notice she has changed her stance and is imposing greater restrictions on refugees entering Germany. Yes, we all agree that we must help people being victimised and displaced in their own countries but pressure should be brought to bear on countries with similar faiths and beliefs and local to these potential refugees. Every country must firstly consider it's own citizens and where there are such obvious shortcomings at home these must be addressed first. Our once-admired education is now well down the list and our NH is abused by health migrants to an enormous degree costing billions

David Cameron goes to Brussels later this week to meet other EU leaders, as he tries to secure a new deal for the UK ahead of the promised in/out referendum on the country's EU membership. He is a terrible negotiator and (watch these words) will not get any worthwhile changes. It is so obvious (even to me as a layman) that the EU will not make any concessions to the UK so why don't we make a concerted effort to go it alone. BIG IS

NOT BEAUTIFUL. Witness the fiasco with Greece

Our government (and even if it changes) is comprised of people with a vested interest in maintaining the status quo. They (mostly) live in a different world with no conception of what the average citizen endures

I have a 5 point plan for turning our country's welfare around. Yes it is revolutionary but as the saying goes " You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs"

- Terminate immigration immediately. Dependents can not join people established here. Assist established residents with families abroad to travel back to their native land if necessary.Thiswill be very unpopular but eventually this decision will be made.
- Only treat hospital and surgery patients that have 'genuine' NI numbers and establish a team dedicated to charging foreign users of the NH services. Payment in advance just like the US.. **NO insurance..NO treatment**
- No companies trading in the UK allowed to use tax avoidance schemes by registering in Luxembourg or similar. The tax legislation is so complex and highly-paid accountants thrive on complex avoidance advice that 'Jo-Public' can not take advantage of. Make a simple threshold figure where tax is due and use the draconian existing powers to collect it. The massive amounts 'owed' should not be written off
- Register all property owners letting their property and make them responsible for subletting. Ignorance of this fact will not prevent recrimination. Owners not domiciled in the UK will have to have funds here to pay fines and if not adhered to the property will be seized.
- Make it a requirement that cycle-owners have public liability insurance and pay a road tax (income received being ring-fenced and goes into cycle paths and other cycle –related uses). Bikes to be microchipped and a cycle police employed to enforce this..cycle immediate confiscation if not chipped or existing fines not paid). This is currently utilised for vehicle owners so where is the enforcement problem??

These are just a few quick ideas that any thinking person will agree with. Initially objections will be voiced with words like 'discriminatory' 'unenforceable' but that is back to where we are at present. If the will is strong enough the methods will be made available.

Look at the climate change conference just concluded in Paris. It is legally binding BUT BUT BUT countries will not be forced to do more than they want to. It is just a well-attended talking shop. You really are a sceptic Ralph...will you ever change? No— I am a realist.